(d) what is the extent to which the interests of Indian Airlines and Air India will be affected by the operation of foreign air taxi operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The permit has been issued for operation of service under the air taxi guidelines contained in Aeronautical Information Circular No. 24 of 1990 and related instructions issued from time to time.

(c) M/s. Jet Airways have proposed that they may be owned by Tait Winds Ltd. a company incorporated in the Isle of Man where Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways may hold equity shares of 20% each and the balance would be held by Non-Resident Indian.

(d) Indian Airlines and Air India will face competition.

Civil Airport at Amreli, Gujarat

2107. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for establishing a civil airport at Amreli in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the construction of Airport Terminal building, runway and Taxi-Track has been completed;

(c) whether there is any proposal to operate daily flight directly between Bombay-Surat, Bhavnagar-Amreli;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The airstrip at Amreli belongs to the Government of Gujarat. National Airports Authority has no plan at present to upgrade facilities at this airstrip.

(c) to (e) Due to Commercial and operational reasons Vayudoot has no plans at present to operate on Bombay-Surat, Bhavnagar-Amreli Sectors.

New Aviation Policy

2108. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new aviation policy; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to ensure safe air journey; proper maintenance of aircrafts and curb heavy expenditure.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A liberalised policy has been adopted on operations of air taxis: Open Sky Policy is in force on carriage of cargo by Indian and foreign air carriers and single window clearance system has been introduced for operation of tourist charters. A bill has also been introduced in the Lok Sabha to repeal the Air Corporations Act. 1953.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines have adequate facilities for maintenance of their fleet. So far as air taxi operators are concerned, most of them have facilities for minor maintenance. Major maintenance is done either abroad or at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

Only aircrafts having certificate of airworthiness issued by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are allowed to fly.

Construction of Airport at Jalandhar

2109. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Jalandhar in view of the long-standing demand of Punjabi immigrants settled abroad;

(b) if so, when the construction is likely to commence; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Due to commercial and financial constraints, National Airports Authority has no plan at present to construct an airport at Jalandhar.

International Flights from Amritsar

2110. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to start the international flights from Amritsar as normaley has returned to Punjab; and

(b) the details of the flights proposed to be started from Amritsar alongwith their frequencies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Ariana Airlines is operating services on Amritsar-Kabul sector. Government would welcome more flights Air India and Indian Airlines have been asked to examine possibilities of operating international flights connecting Amritsar.

Pilferage of Funds in I.T.D.C. Restaurants

2111. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been instances of pilferage of funds in the restaurants of the ITDC hotels including the Janpath Hotel, as per the news item entitled 'ITDC to install machine-Pilferage rampant restaurants', which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 13-4-93;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The News item relates to the lossess suffered by ITDC to pilferage in the Restaurants of some of ITDC due Hotels, alleged assault on Officers of ITDC, mis-appropriation of expenditure tax by some employees of the Janapath Hotel, etc. Minor cases of pilferage by the staff of the restaurants of some of the ITDC hotels have come to the notice of the Management from time to time. The cases of pilferage are investigated by the Vigilance Division of the Hotels. On the basis of investigations, disciplinary authorities take suitable action against the erring employees. Four employees of Hotel Janapath are alleged to have been involved in the misappropriation of cash of the said hotel. The case has been handed over to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police for investigation.

(c) Steps taken by the ITDC Management to check pilferage include machanisation of billing, exercise of strict control. Plugging of loopholes in the procedure and system.

2112. *[Transferred to 20th August, 1993]*

Proposals to make Visit to Taj More Attractive

2113. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have any proposal under consideration to make the visit to Taj Mahal more attractive; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to step up the maintenance and improve tourist facilities at historical monuments such as Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri at Agra. Improvement of civic amenities such as roads, drinking water, power supply, providing better shopping facilities, evening entertainment for tourists sound and light shows and music and cultural programmes are some of the other measures being taken up for implementation.

Delay of IC-721 flight from Calcutta

2114. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16-7-93 IC-721 flight from Calcutta reached Delhi via Dhaka (Bangladesh) after dropping three technicians there;

(b) whether it is a fact that passengers were not informed at Dum Dum airport and their arrival at Delhi was delayed by 9-10 hours;

(c) whether some of the passengers missed their connecting flight;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. IC-721 does not operate to Delhi. However, on 15-7-93 flight IC-721 between Calcutta and Bagdogra was operated via Dhaka to drop men and material for grounded aircraft at Dhaka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) All efforts are made to minimise delay and cancellations.